

### REMARKS

The applicants have studied the Office Action dated October 23, 2003. It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Claim 1 has been amended, and claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meyer (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,449).

Claims 3-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,449) in view of Mu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,296). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites "wherein said cross-bar switch is implemented with a plurality of digital buffers." Other claims recite a similar language. The references cited by the Examiner do not disclose a cross-bar switch implemented with digital buffers.

The Examiner states that Mu reference teaches a cross-bar switch implemented with digital buffers. (See page 3 of the Office Action). The Mu reference states "Generally conventional systems routed data by moving the data to be transmitted from a transmitting data port to an input buffer associated with that data port, along a single data line, to an input of crossbar switch .... Each data port has a data buffer and each data buffer includes block units that each hold a portion of a packet of data." (See col. 2, lines 8-25 of the Mu reference). Thus, each of the data port has a data buffer associated with it, but the Mu reference does not disclose that the cross-bar switch is implemented with digital buffers, as recited in the claims. The Mu reference only states that each of the data port has a data buffer. The Mu reference states "within the crossbar switch, each data line is coupled to each other data line at an intersection point." (See col. 2, lines 23-25 of the reference). Thus claims 1-17 distinguish over the art of record.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-17 should be withdrawn.

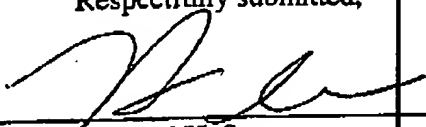
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this page is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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